



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

PRESS STATEMENT

NO: MFA/PR/2026/248

NIGERIA, SPAIN STRENGTHEN BILATERAL COOPERATION, DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP ON ECOWAS

The Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, **Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye**, received in audience, **H.E. Ambassador Felix Costales**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, on 22 September 2026, during which they discussed the strengthening of existing bilateral partnerships and explored new areas of collaboration.

Specifically, their deliberations focused on expanding bilateral trade and investment, strengthening high-level consultations, and deepening cooperation on global issues in the advancement of shared interests.

In his remarks, the Honourable Minister of State expressed appreciation to Ambassador Costales for his visit, and underscored the strong and excellent relations between Nigeria and Spain, exemplified by the exchange of Ambassadors between both countries. He acknowledged the cooperation and support extended to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, by the Government of Spain when she served as Nigeria's Ambassador to the country. He expressed confidence that the same gesture would be extended to H.E. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu PhD, Nigeria's current Ambassador to Spain.

Ambassador Enikanolaiye lauded the scope of Nigeria-Spain trade relations, which he and Ambassador Costales agreed were largely driven by Nigeria's oil exports. The Minister highlighted exchange rate stability, stronger monetary and fiscal positions, improved foreign exchange reserves and lower inflationary pressure as key outcomes of ongoing economic reforms by the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led

Administration. Therefore, he underscored the need for Spain to leverage on these gains by exploring investment opportunities in manufacturing, agro-processing and solid minerals beneficiation in Nigeria.

The Honourable Minister of State emphasized the importance of leveraging the outcome of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development held in Spain in 2025, to deepen understanding and cooperation in development financing, with particular emphasis on innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for climate and renewable-energy initiatives. He acknowledged Spain's comparative advantage in the maritime and blue economy sectors, and called for enhanced cooperation in these areas within the framework of the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM).

Speaking on shared values between Nigeria and Spain, Ambassador Sola Enikanolaiye reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to democratic values and principles, as demonstrated by its continued promotion and protection of civil liberties and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the press, association, and expression.

ECOWAS featured prominently in the meeting, with the Honourable Minister of State underscoring Nigeria's commitment to promoting unity, regional integration and security in the West Africa sub region. He also affirmed the country's commitment to fostering friendly and cordial relations with its neighbours, noting that their enduring ties are rooted in shared history, cultural affinities, common interests, geographical proximity, and strong people-to-people connections. In this regard, he stated that Nigeria would continue to engage with the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) through Joint Commissions and other mechanisms of cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade, security and intelligence sharing.

Earlier during the meeting, Ambassador Costales emphasized the need to enhance political and institutional exchanges within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Political Dialogue between Nigeria and Spain. He underscored the need to strengthen international cooperation for the advancement of shared interests on global and regional issues. While highlighting the important role played by Nigeria in West Africa, the Spanish Ambassador acknowledged developments in the ECOWAS and reaffirmed Spain's continued

support to the regional organisation and its Commission's new leadership.

Ambassador Costales highlighted the excellent scope of trade between Nigeria and Spain, especially in Nigeria's oil and gas exports to Spain. He identified prospects for growth in economic partnerships in other sectors and affirmed Spain's commitment to working with Nigeria in exploring these potentials.

Both sides also considered pending agreements and MoUs, including those related to migration and readmission. They explored cooperation in culture, sports and tourism, including opportunities in Spain's experience in football. The two sides reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to deepening cooperation and strengthening mutual engagement in advancing shared interests, promoting global peace and security, and fostering sustainable development.

Signed:

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Wednesday, 23 September 2026